

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multicast system comprising:

a client; and

a center system connected via a network to said client,
said client including:

(A) a data transmission module for transmitting to said
center system pieces of data that should be multicast; and

(B) a destination information notifying module for
notifying said center system of destination information on a
plurality of transmission destinations of the data,

said center system including:

(a) a receiving module for receiving the data and the
destination information;

(b) a generating module for generating a multicast group
containing the plurality of transmission destinations on the
basis of the destination information; and

(c) a multicast module for multicasting the data to the
generated multicast group.

2. A multicast system according to claim 1, wherein said
center system further includes a list providing module for
providing said clients with a list for a user of the client to
select a plurality of transmission destinations, and

said destination information notifying module notifies
said center system of the destination information on the
plurality of transmission destinations selected by the user from
the list.

3. A multicast system according to claim 2, wherein said receiving module receives user information from said client, and

5 said list providing module provides said client with a list containing information on a transmission destination corresponding to the user information among a plurality of transmission destinations to which the data can be multicast.

10 4. A multicast system according to claim 2, wherein said receiving module receives range information on a range of the transmission destination selected by the user from said client, and

15 said list providing module provides said client with a list containing information on a transmission destination corresponding to the range information among a plurality of transmission destinations to which the data can be multicast.

20 5. A multicast group generating method in a multicast system comprising a client, and a center system connected via a network to said clients, said method comprising steps of:

notifying said center system of data that said client desires to multicast and of destination information on a plurality of transmission destinations;

25 receiving the data and the destination information by said center system; and

generating a multicast group containing the plurality of transmission destinations by said center system.

6. A multicast group generating method according to claim 5, further comprising:

5 a step of providing said client with a list for a user of said client to select a plurality of transmission destinations by said center system; and

a step of notifying said center system of the destination information on the plurality of transmission destinations selected out of the list by the user from said client.

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7. A multicast group generating method according to claim 6, further comprising:

a step of receiving the user information by said center system from said client; and

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a step of providing said client with a list by said center system, the list containing the information on the transmission destination corresponding to the user information among the plurality of transmission destinations to which the data can be multicast.

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8. A multicast group generating method according to claim 6, further comprising:

25 a step of receiving, from said client, range information on a range of the selected-by-the-user transmission destination by said center system; and

a step of providing said client with a list by said center system, the list containing the information on the transmission

destination corresponding to the range information among the plurality of transmission destinations to which the data can be multicast.

5 9. A multicast device comprising:

 a receiving module for receiving data that should be multicast and destination information on a plurality of transmission destinations of the data from a client via a network;

10 a generating module for generating a multicast group containing the plurality of transmission destinations on the basis of the destination information; and

 a multicasting module for multicasting the data to the generated multicast group.

15 10. A multicast device according to claim 9, further comprising a list providing module for providing said client with a list for a user of said client to select a plurality of transmission destinations, and

20 said destination information notifying module notifies said center system of the destination information on the plurality of transmission destinations selected by the user from the list.

25 11. A multicast device according to claim 10, wherein said receiving module receives user information from said client, and

 said list providing module provides said client with a

list containing information on a transmission destination corresponding to the user information among a plurality of transmission destinations to which the data can be multicast.

5 12. A multicast device according to claim 10, wherein said receiving module receives range information on a range of the transmission destination selected by the user from said client, and

10 said list providing module provides said client with a list containing information on a transmission destination corresponding to the range information among a plurality of transmission destinations to which the data can be multicast.

15 13. A multicast device according to claim 9, wherein the data are categorized as a data file.

 14. A multicast device according to claim 9, wherein the data are categorized as stream data.

20 15. A multicast device according to claim 9, wherein said multicasting module multicasts the data via a satellite link.

25 16. A multicast group generating method in a multicast device for multicasting data to a plurality of multicast groups, said method comprising steps of:

 receiving the data that should be multicast and destination information on a plurality of transmission destinations from

a client via a network; and

generating the multicast group containing the plurality of transmission destinations on the basis of the destination information.

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17. A multicast group generating method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of providing said client with a list for a user of said client to select a plurality of transmission destinations in order to receive the destination information.

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18. A multicast group generating method according to claim 17, further comprising step of:

receiving user information from said client; and

providing said client with a list containing information

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on a transmission destination corresponding to the user information among the plurality of transmission destinations to which the data can be multicast.

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19. A multicast group generating method according to claim 17, further comprising steps of:

receiving range information on a range of the transmission destination selected by the user from said client; and

providing said client with a list containing information on a transmission destination corresponding to the range

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information among the plurality of transmission destinations to which the data can be multicast.